Bio-Diesel Plant

1429. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up India's first bio-diesel plant in "rain shadow areas" shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the site selected for the purpose;

(c) whether it is likely to be a joint venture and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of funding agencies for the proposed plant?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Bio-diesel is produced by a chemical reaction between vegetable oils and methanol, and setting up of such plants, or modifications of existing chemical plants to produce bio-diesel do not require any industrial license or permission of the Central Government. As such, details of initiatives in setting up of bio-diesel plants are not centrally maintained. However, the Ministry of Rural Development, which is the nodal Ministry for implementation of report of the Committee on Development of Bio-Fuel brought out by the Planning Commission, has commissioned preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the Energy and Research Institute (TERI) New Delhi for the purpose.

Viability of plastic-to-petrol process

1430. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC's experiments conducted last year shows that plastic-to-petrol process invented by a couple of scientists yielded 40-60 per cent of liquid petroleum from a kilogram of waste plastic;

(b) if so, the details of research carried out by the scientists;

(c) whether the petrol so produced is economically viable; and

(d) if so, how Government are going ahead with this invention?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A team of Scientists from Nagpur had conducted experiments jointly with IOC (R&D) Centre for converting